

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 HA-05 IO-13 AID-05  
EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /112 W  
-----014212 220747Z /14

O R 211540Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8057  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
RUEHBAC /AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 039  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 5068

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, EGEN, EAID, PORG, NI  
SUBJECT: FMG REACTION TO USG HUMAN RIGHTS DEMARCHE

REF: (A) STATE 015725, (B) STATE 097953

1. SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO INVITATION TO BILATERAL DISCUSSION  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN LIBREVILLE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT  
MEA ANI SAID FMG WOULD OPPOSE ACTIVELY ANY U.S. EFFORT TO MAKE  
'NON-ECONOMIC' CRITERIA SUCH AS HUMAN RIGHTS PART OF AFDF DECISION  
MAKING. ANI EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT MOST 'THIRD-WORLD' GOVERNMENTS  
ALSO OPPOSED U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS PROPOSAL. HE STRESSED FMG VERY  
INTERESTED IN HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM, BUT STATED IT SHOULD BE DIS-  
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CUSSED ON 'BILATERAL LEVEL' IN LAGOS. FMG STILL REVIEWING POSITION  
ON SUBJECT AND WILL REQUEST FORMAL MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR EASUM  
IN NEAR FUTURE. FMG THUS DECLINES INVITATION FOR CONCURRENT  
BILATERAL DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AT LIBREVILLE AFDF MEE4ING.  
END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF DELIVERED USG INVITATION FOR CONCURRENT BILATERAL DIS-

CUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH FMG AT LIBREVILLE AFDF MEETING TO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR ECONOMIC DEPARTMENT MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
A. ANI. AFTER LISTENING TO EMBOFF'S PRESENTATION MADE ON LINES  
REFTELS, ANI STATED THAT NIGERIA WAS VERY INTERESTED IN PROTECTION  
OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT WORLD AND THAT NIGERIAN HUMAN RIGHTS  
RECORD WAS 'NOT BAD DESPITE HAVING A MILITARY GOVERNMENT'. NONE-  
THELESS, FMG BELIEVES USG ATTEMPT TO 'FORCE HUMAN RIGHTS CRITERIA  
ON INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS IS A MISTAKE' WHICH FMG WILL  
FIGHT 'TOOTH AND NAIL'.

3. ANI SAID FMG IS BASING POLICY ON THREE ARGUMENTS. FIRST,  
IFIS ECONOMIC PRESSURE WOULD HAVE LITTLE EFFECT ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATORS, I.E., 'DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THE AFDF'S NOT GIVING A  
LOAN TO UGANDA BECAUSE OF ITS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WILL CAUSE  
AMIN TO CHANGE HIS WAYS.' SECOND, SINCE POVERTY CREATES A POLITICAL  
CLIMATE CONDUCTIVE TO THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, THE PROPER  
WAY TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IS TO  
ELIMINATE POVERTY. DENIAL OF DEVELOPMENT FUNDS BECAUSE OF HUMAN  
RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ONLY PRESERVES POVERTY AND HENCE HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS. THIRD, ALTHOUGH USG MAY BE WELL INTENTIONED IN TRYING  
TO INTRODUCE 'NON-ECONOMIC CRITERIA' INTO IFIS DECISION MAKING,  
USG SUCCESS WOULD BE A PRECEDENT WHICH COULD BE ABUSED LATER.  
ANI CITED US LEGISLATION WHICH CALLS FOR USG TO OPPOSE IFIS LOANS  
FOR 'OIL NUT' PROJECTS AS EXAMPLE OF ABUSE. EMBOFF REBUTTED,  
BUT ANI WAS NOT MOVED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 5068

4. ANI SAID MANY OTHER 'THIRD WORLD' NATIONS WERE OPPOSED TO  
USG HUMAN RIGHTS DEMARCHE, ESPECIALLY THE ACP LOME CONVENTION  
STATES, FOR THE SAME REASONS AS NIGERIA, AND PREDICTED THAT THE  
USG WOULD BE 'UNPLEASANTLY SURPRISED' IF IT INTRODUCED MATTER  
IN LIBREVILLE. HE COUNSELED US NOT TO HAVE ANY SUCH BILATERALS  
AT MEETING. WHEN EMBOFF AGAIN STRESSED THAT USG WAS NOT  
CONSIDERING MAKING HUMAN RIGHTS PART OF LIBREVILLE AGENDA  
AND ONLY USING OCCASION FOR CONCURRENT BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS,  
ANI SAID THAT OPPONENTS OF USG POLICY WOULD 'BRING INTO GENERAL  
MEETING WHAT THEY HEAR IN THE CORRIDORS.'

5. ANI SAID PROPER FORUM FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WAS HIGH LEVEL BILATERAL  
DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCED THAT MEA WAS STILL WORKING ON POSITION  
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WHICH IT WOULD PRESENT FORMALLY TO AMBASSADOR EASUM IN NEAR  
FUTURE. HE RESTRICTED BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS TO LAGOS OR  
WASHINGTON EXCLUSIVELY. ANI BELIEVES NIGERIAN AMBASSADOR TO  
US LOMBOSONG HAS ALREADY OR SOON WILL MAKE ABOVE POINTS TO  
DEPARTMENT.

6. FOR THESE REASONS, FMG FEELS IT INAPPROPRIATE FOR FMG REP  
AT LIBREVILLE MEETING (MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICER AKINSANYA) TO HAVE  
BILATERAL SESSION WITH USG OFFICIALS.

7. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH ANI OFTEN TAKES HARD LINE STANCE ON  
MULTILATERAL ISSUES, WE BELIEVE HIS STATEMENTS ARE AN  
ACCURATE REFLECTION OF EVOLVING FMG POLICY AND THAT WE CAN  
EXPECT STRONG FMG OPPOSITION TO U.S. HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IN  
RELATION TO THE IFIS. FMG HAS NOT PREVIOUSLY FOCUSED ON  
THIS ISSUE BUT CLEARLY HAS BEGUN TO DO SO.  
WIMAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, DEMARCHE, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** FMG REACTION TO USG HUMAN RIGHTS DEMARCHE  
**TAGS:** SHUM, EGEN, EAID, PORG, NI, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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